

**2008 APPROVED WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

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History

The Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee (RHMC) was created in 1979 by Section 74-4A-9 NMSA 1978 to provide a means of coordinating information exchange and develop appropriate state actions in relation to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad. The name of the committee was changed in 1983 and again in 1986 to reflect more accurately the scope of the committee's work, which was broadened by the legislature in 1981, 1986 and 1991.

Over the years, the RHMC's scope has expanded to include a variety of subject matter relating to the environment. In addition to hearing testimony on the progress and status of WIPP, the committee has assumed a major role in the legislative oversight of the New Mexico Department of Environment regulatory actions and the handling, disposal and cleanup of hazardous materials at federal facilities in New Mexico. It has also received extensive testimony from governmental entities, private industry groups and concerned citizens on other environmental issues, such as air and water quality, ground water quality, solid waste, mining and mine safety.

In more recent history, the RHMC has begun to address the state's energy issues, specifically relating to uranium mining and the appropriateness of developing a nuclear portfolio as a clean energy alternative. Last year, the committee expanded its work plan to include alternatives for future electricity generation and their environmental and health impacts. Along with statutory charges, the committee hopes to explore the diversification of the state's energy portfolio.

Approved Work Plan

The committee proposes to review the following topics during the 2008 interim:

1. examine uranium mining and milling in New Mexico, including energy needs, environmental concerns, sociological factors, economic development and land stewardship;
2. determine what the state's contribution or obligation would need to be if, by 2030, the demand for electricity increases by 50 percent;
3. receive WIPP updates and evaluate disposal of various types of hazardous waste under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act;
4. explore options for interim storage for spent fuel and recycling of spent fuel;
5. review the transmission process, including implementation and legislation from other states;
6. examine the liability of alternative mobile or transportation fuels, including biofuels, fuel cells, hybrids and electric; and
7. study the state's potential for energy diversification and review initiatives to implement diversification, including clean energy alternatives, the renewable portfolio standard, available resources and investments in clean energy; and
8. assess whether the name "radioactive and hazardous materials" encompasses the scope of the committee's activities and, if not, propose legislation redefining the scope in statute and suggesting a more appropriate name.

APPROVED MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 28	Santa Fe
August 28-29	Espanola/Los Alamos
September 15-16	Carlsbad
October 1-2	Crownpoint/Grants (joint meeting between RHMC and Indian Affairs Committee (IAC) on uranium mining)
December 1-2	Santa Fe